

### REMARKS

Claims 1-136 are pending in the Application, with claims 18, 20, 41, 43, 66, 69, 80-82, 93, 97, 124, and 128 being withdrawn from consideration pursuant to an election of species requirement. Claims 111-115 are allowed, and claim 96 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but is otherwise indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. In the present Amendment, independent claims 1, 23, 50, 71, 107, 110, 116, 119, 120, 121, and 125 are amended. Additionally, dependent claims 88 and 99 are amended to eliminate lack of antecedent basis which Applicants discovered, and dependent claim 98 is amended to change its dependency to eliminate inadvertent duplication of claim 92. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks.

### Drawing Objections

Several of the drawing objections set forth in the previous Office Action are repeated in the present Office Action. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the previously proposed drawing corrections and/or proposed substitute sheets were not entered because they did not clearly identify the changes that were made to the drawings. Applicants have provided a further set of corrected drawings, this time more clearly indicating the minor changes that have been made, all of which changes relate to labeling of reference numbers or cross-sectional view lines. Applicants respectfully submit that this further submission of drawing corrections overcomes the objection and therefore request that the objection be withdrawn.

### Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 46-47 and 102-103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the claim terms “semi-independent” and “non-independent” with respect to suspension systems are not clear. Applicants respectfully submit that those claim terms are terms of art which would be readily understood by one having ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Prior Art-Based Rejections**

Claims 1-17, 19, 21-40, 42, 44-65, 67, 68, 70-79, 83-92, 94, 95, 98-110, 116-123, 125-127, and 129-136 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and/or 103. Applicants note that the limitation added to claim 111 in the previous Amendment, which secured allowance of that claim, has been added to each of the other independent claims in a manner consistent with the language of each of those respective claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections are now moot.

Additionally, because all remaining independent claims should be allowed, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and allowance of all claims withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the election of species requirement.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. M. Fagin', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

KENNETH M. FAGIN

Reg. No. 37615

Tel. No. (703) 905-2066

Fax No. 703 905-2500

Date: October 21, 2003  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 905-2000